

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 1757—Foreign Relations Authorization Act

H.Con.Res. 84—FY 1998 Budget Resolution (Conference Report)

H.R. 1469—Disaster Recovery Act (Conference Report)



H.R. 1757—Foreign Relations Authorization Act

Floor Situation: The House will continue consideration of H.R. 1757 as its first order of business today. Yesterday, the House completed general debate and finished considering amendments through Title XVII of the bill. Today, the House will continue considering amendments to Title XVIII of the bill under an open rule. The rule allows the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. The rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 1757 authorizes approximately \$6.12 billion in each of FY 1998 and FY 1999 for the State Department and related agencies. The FY 1998 level, which is equal to the amount agreed to by Congress and the president in the balanced budget plan, is about \$228 million less than the administration's request but \$225 million more than the level appropriated in FY 1997. The bill also contains provisions to eliminate the U.S. Information Agency, the International Development Cooperation Agency (IDCA), and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and consolidate their functions into the State Department, along with certain functions of the Agency for International Development. The bill was introduced by Mr. Gilman and Mr. Smith and was not considered by a committee.

Views (on the overall bill):

Republican Leadership: Supports

Chairman Gilman: Supports

Clinton Administration: No Position Available

Amendments: The House will vote on the following three amendments which were considered yesterday but not voted on:

- * an amendment by **Mr. Stearns** to encourage the U.N. to create a planning commission to study the issue of changing the structure of its organization, specifically looking into establishing a revolving headquarters for the U.N. and transforming itself to a part-time body. *Staff Contact: Peter Krug, x5-5744*
- * an amendment by **Mr. Scarborough** to require the administration to apply Sudan the financial transaction restrictions with countries that support terrorism contained in the 1996 Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (*P.L. 104-132*). The amendment also expresses the sense of Congress that the persecution of religious minorities and continued slave trading in Sudan and its support for terrorism abroad and in the U.S. is unacceptable. *Staff Contact: James Griffin, x5-4136*
- * an amendment by **Mr. Engel and Mr. Saxton** to express the sense of Congress that the U.S. should consider applying to Syria identical sanctions to those currently enforced against Iran and Libya if the government of Syria does not alter its dangerous and destabilizing policies. *Staff Contact: Jason Steinbaum (Engel), x5-2464; Rick Fein (Saxton), x5-4765*

At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following other amendments to H.R. 1757:

Mr. Nethercutt may offer an amendment to express the sense of Congress that the militant organization Al-Faran should (1) release Donald Hutchings and four western Europeans from captivity, (2) cease and desist from all acts of hostage-taking and other violent acts within the state of Jammu and Kashmir in India. The State Department Rewards Program should be used to the greatest extent possible to solicit new information pertaining to hostages and the U.S., the United Kingdom, Germany, Norway, India, and Pakistan should share and investigate all information relating to these hostages as quickly as possible. Al-Faran, a militant organization that seeks to merge Kashmir with Pakistan, has waged a war against the government of India. During the week of July 2, 1995, Al-Faran abducted and has threaten to kill Donald Hutchings of the state of Washington and four other western Europeans unless the government of India agrees to release suspected guerrillas from its jails. *Contact: x5-2006*

Mr. Ney may offer an amendment to prohibit foreign assistance to any country that assists the Libyan government in circumventing United Nations sanctions. *Contact: x5-6265*

Mr. Kennedy (RI) may offer an amendment to express the sense of Congress regarding human rights in Indonesia. Additional information was unavailable at press time. *Contact: x5-4911*

Mr. Sanford may offer an amendment (#7) to reduce the authorized spending levels in the bill for FY 1998 and FY 1999 to the amount appropriated in FY 1997 (a reduction of approximately \$1.1 billion). *Staff Contact: Holly Swanson, x5-3176*

Mr. Smith (NJ) may offer an amendment (#41) to prohibit U.S. population assistance for foreign organizations that perform abortions in foreign countries, violate the abortion laws of foreign countries, or lobby for changes in such laws. The amendment provides exceptions in cases of rape,

incest, or when the life of the mother is endangered. Additionally, the amendment prohibits U.S. contributions to the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) unless the president certifies that either (1) UNFPA has terminated all activities in China or (2) that during the 12 months preceding certification, there have been no forced abortions associated with China's family planning program. **Staff Contact: Joseph Rees, x5-5748**

- * **Mr. Campbell and Mr. Greenwood** may offer a secondary amendment (#52) to the Smith amendment to replace the "Mexico City" policy language with a prohibition of the direct use of U.S. funds to pay for abortions or abortion counseling in any foreign country, except in cases of rape, incest or where the life of the mother is endangered. The amendment will also prohibit the direct use of U.S. funds on lobbying for or against abortion and impose a dollar-for-dollar reduction in U.S. funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for any amounts it spends on future programs in China. **Staff Contact: Jackie Benditt, x5-2631**

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #15, Pt. II, June 3, 1997.



H.Con.Res. 84—FY 1998 Budget Resolution (Conference Report)

Floor Situation: The House will consider the conference report to H.Con.Res. 84 after it completes consideration of H.R. 1757 (although that bill may be pulled from consideration for the day at some point). Conference reports are privileged and may be considered any time three days after they are filed; they are debatable for one hour, may not be amended, and are subject to one motion to recommit. They do not require a rule for consideration; nevertheless, the Rules Committee met on Wednesday, June 6, and granted a rule providing for one hour of debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Budget Committee. The rule also considers the conference report as read and waives all points of order against the report and its consideration.

Summary: The conference report to H.Con.Res. 84 lays the groundwork for a balanced budget by FY 2002. The conference report reflects the provisions of the bipartisan budget agreement and contains dollar amounts virtually identical to those in both the House and Senate-passed versions. The only major differences between the House-passed version and the conference report include measures to (1) extend the allowances for the International Monetary Fund and for arrearages for international organizations from the next two fiscal years to the next five fiscal years, (2) allocate appropriations of \$9.2 billion in budget authority in FY 1998 for additional Section 8 Housing Assistance contract renewal funding, (3) allow discretionary caps and spending levels to be adjusted for additional spending for an intercity passenger rail fund (through Amtrak), and (4) express the sense of Congress on several budget-related matters.

The conference report projects steadily declining deficits of \$90.4 billion in FY 1998, \$89.7 billion in FY 1999, \$83 billion in FY 2000, \$53.3 billion in FY 2001, and a surplus of \$1.3 billion in FY 2002. It forecasts \$1.6 trillion in revenues in FY 1998, climbing to \$1.89 trillion by FY 2002. For total budget outlays, the measure recommends \$1.69 trillion in FY 1998.

The conference report includes the following major components of the bipartisan budget plan: (1) providing gross tax relief of \$135 billion over five years and net tax relief of \$85 billion over five years; (2) realizing \$115 billion in Medicare savings over five years by enacting real reforms; (3) creating Medicaid savings by increasing state flexibility and eliminating the per-capita cap; (4) achieving total entitlement savings of \$200 billion over five years without adding new entitlements; (5) increasing defense spending over the FY 1997 budget resolution level; and (6) accepting the president's initiatives relating to children's health care, welfare-to-work incentives, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits, and additional work slots for food stamp recipients.

Views (on the conference report)

Republican Leadership: Supports

Chairman Kasich: Supports

Clinton Administration: No Position Available

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #14, Pt. II, May 18, 1997, and #15, Pt. V, June 4, 1997.



H.R. 1469—Disaster Recovery Act (Conference Report)

Floor Situation: The House is scheduled to consider the conference report to H.R. 1469 after it completes consideration of the conference report to H.Con.Res. 84. Conference reports are privileged and may be considered any time three days after they are filed; they are debatable for one hour, may not be amended, and are subject to one motion to recommit. They do not require a rule for consideration. Nevertheless, the Rules Committee is expected to meet on Thursday to grant a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report and its consideration. On Wednesday, the Rules Committee granted a rule waiving the requirement for a two-thirds majority to consider a rule on the same day it is reported.

Summary: The conference report to H.R. 1469 appropriates \$8.6 billion in supplemental spending, \$200 million more than the House-passed level. Conferees provide \$5.4 billion (\$200 million less than the House level) to provide disaster relief to 35 states that have been declared major disaster areas because of flooding, winter storms, and tornadoes, including (1) \$3.3 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency; (2) \$585 million for the Army Corps of Engineers; and (3) \$500 million for the Community Development Block Grant program. The conference report provides \$1.9 billion for the current operation in Bosnia and other overseas operations, as well as \$937.2 million in mandatory spending (\$180 million more than the House-passed level), mainly for veterans compensation and pensions. The report also provides \$262.2 million in non-emergency spending (\$150.4 million more than the House-passed level).

To offset the increase in discretionary (non-mandatory) budget authority, the report rescinds \$7.66 billion (\$13 million more than the House-passed level). Some of the largest cuts include \$3.6 billion from the Department of Housing & Urban Development Section 8 housing program, \$1.9 billion from various defense programs, \$750 million from the Airport Improvement Program, and \$588

million from Department of Transportation transit grants for rail modernization improvements and capital bus purchases.

The conference report also includes several legislative provisions. Specifically, the report:

- * establishes an automatic continuing resolution to fund government programs at 100 percent of current spending levels after September 30, 1997, if regular appropriations legislation for FY 1998, or a continuing resolution, has not been enacted prior to that date;
- * exempts emergency repairs to flood control facilities from the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in areas that have been declared federal disaster areas this year;
- * limits federal authority over rights-of-way on unreserved public lands by prohibiting the expenditure of funds to implement new Interior Department policies;
- * prohibits the Department of Commerce's Census Bureau from developing a plan to use statistical sampling techniques to prepare the 2000 census;
- * postpones termination of Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid payments for legal immigrants from the current date of August 22, 1997, until September 30, 1997;
- * temporarily changes the requirement that a flood insurance policy be purchased 30 days before the policy takes effect to 15 days for parties that purchase insurance between January 1, 1997, and June 30, 1997;
- * broadens the National Park Service's authority to allow individual parks to keep more money from the fees they collect;
- * allows the president to reduce foreign aid to the Ukraine; and
- * requires the Agency for International Development (USAID) to report to Congress on steps it is taking to implement the recommendations of its inspector general regarding the agency's New Management System.

The conference report was submitted by Mr. Livingston on June 4, 1997. The House passed H.R. 1469 by a vote of 244-178 on May 15, 1997, and the Senate passed its version (S. 672) by unanimous consent on May 16, 1997.

Views (on the conference report)

Republican Leadership: Supports

Chairman Livingston: Supports

Clinton Administration: No Position Available

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #12, May 2, 1997, and #15, Part IV, June 5, 1997.

